

Ex-CIA Man Not Suspect In Bombing

Letelier Case Still Open; Wilson Libya Link Eyed

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Investigators into last year's Embassy Row bomb-murder of former Chilean official Orlando Letelier concluded more than a month ago that there is no connection between the slaying and a former CIA explosives expert reportedly being sought for questioning.

Nor is the man, Edwin P. Wilson, under active investigation for allegedly trying to recruit two anti-Castro Cubans to kill a Libyan exile in Egypt.

However, officials familiar with Wilson's contract with Libyan strongman Col. Muammar Kadafi to provide explosives and other services say Wilson will have problems when he returns to the United States for failing to register as a foreign agent.

It was learned that the FBI several months ago checked out Wilson's reported offer of \$1 million to the two Cubans in connection with the alleged Libyan deal and concluded there was no violation of American law since the discussion took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

Investigators ruled out a connection with the Letelier killing more than 45 days ago.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that Wilson is being sought, along with three Cuban exiles, for questioning in the Letelier murders.

BUT THE FBI, while declining to comment on details of the Wilson investigation, said he is not being sought and the case of his connection with any plot against the Libyan exile is closed.

Sources in the Justice Department have acknowledged that Wilson was under investigation in the Libyan matter more than six months ago. But the investigation lost intensity when probers discovered the alleged assassination recruitment attempt had taken place on foreign soil and that the two Cubans rejected the offer.

A subsequent review reportedly was made by the FBI a month and a half ago because of the explosives Wilson was selling to Libya. "It was a matter of a similarity in MO (method of operation), not any direct evidence of a connection with the Letelier case," one source said.

Apparently what brought the matter into headlines yesterday was a request made last week by Asst. U.S. Atty. Eugene Propper for all CIA files on Wilson. Propper is in charge of the investigations of the deaths of Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt when their car was blown up last Sept. 21 at Sheridan Circle. When Propper's request was reported to the Justice Department, the word spread that Wilson might be a suspect in the Letelier case.

WILSON IS connected with a firm called Consultants International, at 1425 K St. NW. The earlier federal investigation more than half a year ago reportedly established that the firm had contracted to sell Libya several thousand small detonators known as "timing pencils." The detonators ostensibly were to be used for exploding old mine fields Lybia, but sources said part of the secret deal included assassinating the unnamed Libyan opponent of Kadafi.

Inquiries at the FBI about whether Wilson is a suspect in the Letelier case apparently created surprise because the bureau had been over that ground six weeks ago without result.

The only reason the FBI then checked out Wilson on the Letelier case was the access he had to explosive materials and his contact with the two Cubans in the unrelated Libyan plot.

AS FAR AS officials know, Wilson is abroad, either in Switzerland or England.

The FBI and Washington police said again yesterday the Letelier case is open and under investigation.

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